

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:PKJOHNSON:WLT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 117138 TOSEC 010066

NODIS

FOL REPEAT AMMAN 3362 SENT ACTION SECSTATE MAY 20, 1975

QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 3362

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

REF: AMMAN 3359

1. EVENING MAY 19 RIFAI AND I HAD BRIEF CHANCE TO TALK FURTHER ABOUT SADAT VISIT AND HIS TRIP TO SYRIA MAY 19 AS INDICATED REFTEL. WE WILL ALSO GET TOGETHER AGAIN LATER TODAY.

2. PRINCIPAL POINT NOT COVERED IN EARLIER MESSAGE SEEMS TO BE FACT THAT BOTH SADAT AND ASAD SHOW AMAZING CONVERGENCE ON BEING SOUR ON PLO. ASAD
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APPARENTLY FED UP WITH INDECISIVENESS AND INTERNAL

DIVISIONS IN BODY. NEVERTHELESS, RIFAI LEFT ME WITH IMPRESSION THAT ASAD WILL STILL TRY TO PUSH FOR SOME GOJ/PLO ACCOMMODATION, BUT UNDERSTANDS WHY JORDAN WILL NOT MOVE. SADAT, RIFAI SAID, BELIEVES WHOLE ORGANIZATION IS SO FRACTURED AND RUDDERLESS AS TO REQUIRE ONLY MINIMUM PUBLIC ATTENTION AND CANNOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY IN SUBSTANTIVE TERMS. (MAY WELL BE BOTH WERE SPEAKING FOR THEIR JORDANIAN AUDIENCE.)

3. RIFAI NOTED ASAD REMAINS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT LEBANON. HE FEARS ANOTHER OUTBREAK AND FURTHER DISINTEGRATION OF GOVERNMENT AND ORDER. HE SAYS HE LIKES FRANJIEH AND WILL STAY OUT UNLESS ISRAELIS USE OPPORTUNITY TO TRY TO MOVE IN. IN SUCH CASE RIFAI SAYS HE DOES NOT THINK WE CAN COUNT ON ASAD JUST STANDING BY.

4. RIFAI ASKED THAT I PASS ON TO YOU HIS AND KING'S STRONG HOPES THAT THEY CAN HAVE SUBSTANTIVE REPORT FROM YOU AFTER YOUR TALK WITH GROMYKO AND AGAIN AFTER SALZBURG MEETING.

5. BOTH KING AND RIFAI YESTERDAY TOLD ME THAT THEY WERE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE WIDE NUMBER OF REPORTS THEY HAD BEEN RECEIVING CONCERNING ASSASSINATION PLOTS AGAINST MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER LEADERS. THEY HOPED THAT THE PRESIDENT IN CONNECTION WITH HIS SALZBURG TRIP WOULD TAKE ALL POSSIBLE SECURITY MEASURES. I THANKED THEM FOR THEIR CONCERN AND SAID OF COURSE I WOULD PASS ON THIS INFORMATION AND WAS SURE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WAS BEING DONE TO PROVIDE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S SECURITY. PICKERING

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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